

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

February 2nd, 2015

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

February 7	Pancake Breakfast
February 9th- 12th	Winter Conferences
February 28	Holmes Auction

## News

### Snow Gear

Please remember that all students go out for recess and need hats, gloves, and mittens. Many students are coming in from recess with wet feet. You may want to send in an extra pair of socks as well.

### Holmes School Pancake Breakfast - Saturday, February 7th, 9-11 AM

The annual pancake breakfast is coming up this Saturday morning, February 7th. Come with your hungry family for all you can eat pancakes (plain, blueberry and chocolate chip), bacon, eggs, juice and coffee (from Starbucks). Cost is just \$6 for adults, \$4 for children or \$20 max per family. **We still need a few more volunteers** to help prep in the kitchen. If you have been looking for a time to volunteer outside of the work week this could be for you! Shifts are less than two hours. [Click here to sign up](#) now, or contact [Fran Arnold](#) or [Sue Mitra](#) with questions.

### Typing Practice

Students can log on to Typing Training from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:  
<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

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## SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th graders are beginning their "Design an Ad" contest run by the Wednesday Journal. They will be given a local business and have to design a black and white ad with original tagline, illustration and body copy. The winning ads will be run in the newspaper!

**Music** - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> This trimester recorder assessments will be done by students recording themselves on their iPads. The music is on the 5th grade link on the Holmes website (link above). They have will have to February 23rd for this assessment but as soon as they are done with their assessment they can email it t me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org). There will be extra help sessions at lunch for those who want to ask me questions or record themselves at school on Thursday at 11:45 and next Monday at 11:45. This week students are putting their compositions which were done in shorthand onto the "Notate me now" app on their iPads.

**Chorus and Gold Belt** - Chorus will be working on songs and the choral festival. Gold Belt will be working on small ensemble songs for our April concert (date TBD).

**Spanish** - All classes have begun a new story. These stories will be posted to the blog this week so students can read them at home for extra credit.

**Library** - *Regular Library news*: We are working on science research projects. Last week I introduced students to Middle Search Plus, which can be accessed through the [OPPL's homework help page](#). Students should have **three resources** for this project. This week we will be creating bibliographies.

*Reading Olympics*: We had our first meeting this past Friday. Students: if you don't remember which books you signed up to read, remember you can check in with the teammate who has the sign up sheet, or check in with me in the library. **Books can be accessed through the Holmes library, the OPPL, the 3M cloud, Overdrive, Follett Shelf, and in fifth grade classrooms.** This extracurricular activity is voluntary, but all students are encouraged to participate! Please email [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with any questions or concerns. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

**Physical Education** - February is Gymnastic Unit here at Holmes. The kids will be swinging, hanging, climbing, rolling, cartwheeling, somersaulting, and many other equilibrium building balancing acts. ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com))

### **Reading/Literature**

During the last weeks of January and the beginning of February, we will focus on comprehending expository nonfiction texts. We will practice "revving up" our minds to read nonfiction by reading text features such as the table of contents, headings, subheadings, charts, graphs, and diagrams. We will also focus on remembering main ideas and details as we read and take notes in a "boxes and bullets" format. We will also analyze nonfiction texts to figure out what structures the author used, and we will tailor our thinking and notes to fit these structures. These structures include description, compare and contrast, problem and solution, cause and effect, and sequence.

### **Writing**

Students will be working on their Science research papers during writing time.

### **Math**

This week, we will continue with our study of fraction multiplication and division. Our focus this week will be on using visual models and algorithms to multiply fractions and mixed numbers. There will be a short quiz on Friday covering multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers.

### **Science**

Students have been working on their research papers in science the past few weeks. The papers are due this Friday, February 6. The rubric was handed out in class and is also on the wiki. For more information about the project, visit the wiki at this link:

<http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair>

Please contact your child's science teacher with questions about the project.

### **Social Studies**

In Social Studies we will continue to learn about the first English settlements in North America. We will focus on the colonies of Jamestown and Plymouth, but take a quick detour to explore the mystery of Roanoke. This week, students will be watching a video tour of Plymouth colony. Students will take notes and use this information to write a "Postcard from the New World" which will focus on what life was like in one of these colonies.

### **Spelling/Word Study**

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block. We learn that the bases "scrib" and "script" mean "write" and that "dict" means "say," "speak," or "tell."

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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